

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected all of the claims as anticipated by or obvious over Bredal (US 6,234,088). Bredal discloses a single sheet pallet manufactured with dimensions corresponding to one-quarter of the area of a standardized pallet. (col. 2, lines 46-49). Four of the quarter-sized pallets are arranged two-by-two to support a load. (Figure 12).

Applicant has amended claim 14 to include the elements from claim 19, which was previously rejected as obvious over Bredal in view of Elder (5,606,921). Applicant respectfully disagrees that claim 14 as amended is obvious. Although non-peripheral feet are not unusual on standard-size pallets, because the pallet disclosed in Bredal is one-quarter the size of a standard pallet, there would be no need or motivation for adding a non-peripheral foot to the Bredal pallet. Because there is no motivation for adding a non-peripheral foot to the Bredal pallet, claim 14 is not obvious. Claims 24 and 30 also specify a non-peripheral foot or support member and are therefore not obvious for similar reasons.

Claims 15, 24 and 25 specify a side peripheral foot portion (or support member). Bredal does not disclose side peripheral foot portions, but only legs in the corners. Again, because the pallet is one-quarter standard size, there would be no need or motivation to add a side peripheral foot portion to the Bredal pallet. Therefore, claims 15, 24 and 25 are patentable.

Claim 38 has been amended to specify that the cutout is substantially symmetrical about a diagonal extending from a centerpoint of the top deck to the one corner of the top deck. As can be seen in Figure 2, the legs of Bredal are not symmetrical about the specified diagonal. Therefore, claim 28 is patentable.